specimen that agreed very closely with the published descriptions of *Eleocharis caribaea* (Rottb.) Blake, var. *dispar* (E. J. Hill) Blake. This identification has since been confirmed by Dr. M. L. Fernald. The specimen may be cited:

In wet sand on Lake Erie shore, Rondeau Provincial Park, Kent Co., Ontario, *R. F. Cain*, Aug. 14, 1934.

This is apparently the first record of this very local variety, other than from Whiting, Indiana, where it has been known for many years. The Ontario record marks such a surprising jump eastward in its range that one is led to expect that careful collecting in the region of the lower Great Lakes will reveal its presence elsewhere between these two stations.

A duplicate specimen has been deposited at the Gray Herbarium.—T. M. C. Taylor, Department of Botany, University of Toronto.

Eleocharis caribaea, var. dispar in Michigan.—The inland variety, *Eleocharis caribaea* (Rottb.) Blake, var. *dispar* (E. J. Hill) Blake, of the tropical and subtropical chiefly coastal plain species, *E. caribaea*, has heretofore been known only from the type locality at Whiting, Lake County, Indiana, where apparently it has not been collected during the past forty years.[1] Consequently it was with no little surprise that the writer came upon an extensive colony of it at Silver Lake, Washtenaw County, Michigan during the past summer, —a station approximately 200 miles northeast of the type locality. Here, on the wet, sandy margin of a large pond, it was growing profusely associated with *E. acicularis* and *E. olivacea*, *Cyperus rivularis*, *Rynchospora capillacea*, *Juncus alpinus* var. *fuscescens*, *J. brachycephalus*, *Lobelia Kalmii*, *Agalinis paupercula* var. *borealis*, *Mariscus mariscoides*, *Lycopus americanus*, *Hypericum virginicum*, *Panicum flexile* amd *Spiranthes cernua*.

Recently it was learned that Mr. Deam had also discovered *E. caribaea* var. *dispar* at three additional stations for Indiana, all during the summer of 1934, so that its distribution is not as restricted as had been supposed and further collections of the Eleochares may be expected to reveal it from other localities adjacent to the southern shores of the lower Great Lakes.

The data for the recent collections of this plant are as follows:

Indiana: east side of Little Chapman Lake, 4 miles northeast of

[1] Svenson, H. K. Monographic Studies in the Genus Eleocharis. Rhodora **31**: 227. 1929.

Warsaw, Kosciusko County, *C. C. Deam*, no. 55,328; north end of Clark St., Gary (formerly Pine), Lake County, *C. C. Deam*, no. 55,529; low marl border of east side of Adams Lake, 3 miles northeast of Wolcotville, Lagrange County, August 16, 1934, *C. C. Deam*, no. 55,357A. MICHIGAN: open, sandy shore of pond east of Silver Lake, 6½ miles northwest of Dexter, Washtenaw County, August 31, 1934, *F. J. Hermann*, no. 6430 (Gray Herbarium, Brooklyn Botanic Garden), and November 26, 1934, no. 6457.—F. J. HERMANN, University of Michigan.

ACORUS CALAMUS IN AMERICA

MURRAY F. BUELL

ACORUS CALAMUS L. in its several varieties grows without cultivation over a large part of the north temperate zone and the adjacent tropics. In eastern Asia, where Engler[1] recognizes four varieties, it occurs in one form or another from Ceylon to the Amur River, and inland as far as Lake Baikal. In Europe it occurs from the Alps northward to Scandinavia and Russia, and in a few places in the Mediterranean region. In North America it is widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida, and westward to Texas, Montana, and as far north as the Peace River. In both Europe and North America the plant seems to belong uniformly to Linnaeus' var. *vulgaris*.

No one seems ever to have questioned that the species in some form is indigenous in Asia. The presence of several varieties not known elsewhere, and the occurrence of a second species (*A. gramineus*) with a substantially similar range, seem to indicate its native status beyond a shadow of doubt.

In Europe, although the plant is said to be uniformly sterile, botanists did not seriously question its indigenous status until the second half of the nineteenth century, but by the beginning of the present century European botanists seem to have been pretty well agreed that it is an introduced plant which has become naturalized since the middle of the sixteenth century, and the researches of Mücke fully confirm this.[2]

As to its status in North America various opinions are expressed by

[1] ENGLER, Das Pflanzenreich, IV, 23 B. 308. (1905).

[2] See ENGLER, l. c.; ASCHERSON AND GRAEBNER, Synopsis, II, 2. 365 (1904). Mücke, M., Über den Bau und die Entwicklung der Früchte und über die Herkünft von Acorus calamus L. Bot. Zeit. LXVI, 1–23. (1908). According to the latter author the immediate source of the plant was from living rhizomes sent from Constantinople to Matthiolus in Prague in 1557, and to Clusius in Vienna in 1574. What was the ultimate source of this material remains to be determined.